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## EDITORIALS†

### PENDING LEGISLATION: CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE NOW IN SESSION

#### Total of 3,855 Additional Laws Proposed.—

In every second year, the California Legislature convenes on the first Monday in January, holds a constitutional recess in February, and then adjourns, with or without date, usually depending on the nature and importance of pertinent legislation, policies or issues. By the time the OFFICIAL JOURNAL for March is placed on the desks of its readers, the fifty-fourth biennial session will again be in full operation at Sacramento, the legislative mill grinding out, from day to day, a few noncontroversial bills, and the assembly and senate committees, at all hours, holding hearings on proposed laws referred to them by their presiding officers.

Early in January it seemed that a lesser number of propositions would be submitted this year; but this impression was dissipated in the last days of the first portion of the session, when the count showed that 1,291 proposed measures had been introduced by state senators, and 2,654 bills submitted by assemblymen, making a total of 3,855, not counting concurrent and joint resolutions.

A large number of the suggested statutes relate to public health and medical activities, and the task of reading and inspecting almost 4,000 measures places a heavy burden of work upon the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, and its representatives and assistants.

Fortunately, many bills die a natural death "in committee," but eternal vigilance is necessary, if the enactment of legislation that is inimical to the best interests of the public health and medical standards is to be prevented. In due course, the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, and associated hospital and other groups, will send progress bulletins to component county societies, and to other Association members who maintain an active interest in legislative matters.

On page 135 of this issue appears a list of advocated statutes relating to public health, a compilation made by the Public Health League of California. Every member, therefore, may well give the list at least a cursory inspection.

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and editorial interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.